

MERCHANT &amp; GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**OPTICAL ELEMENT, SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, AND OPTICAL INFORMATION RECORDING DEVICE EMPLOYING THE SAME**

The specification of which

a. ☐ is attached hereto

b. ☒ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. PCT/JP01/05822 filed on July 4, 2001 and as amended on December 5, 2001 (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (attached hereto).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

a. ☐ no such applications have been filed.

b. ☒ such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC § 119			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
Japan	2000-203387	5 July 2000	
ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

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Reg. No. 40,481  
 Reg. No. 28,828  
 Reg. No. 42,264  
 Reg. No. 32,960  
 Reg. No. 27,612  
 Reg. No. 41,622  
 Reg. No. 31,329  
 Reg. No. 17,426  
 Reg. No. 34,130  
 Reg. No. 32,404  
 Reg. No. 25,959  
 Reg. No. 33,227  
 Reg. No. 39,634  
 Reg. No. 30,247  
 Reg. No. 26,652  
 Reg. No. 25,968  
 Reg. No. 34,994  
 Reg. No. 40,579  
 Reg. No. 36,414  
 Reg. No. 42,157  
 Reg. No. 28,707  
 Reg. No. 20,187  
 Reg. No. 39,667  
 Reg. No. 37,830  
 Reg. No. 40,620  
 Reg. No. 26,896  
 Reg. No. 38,472  
 Reg. No. 18,223  
 Reg. No. 41,804  
 Reg. No. 33,112  
 Reg. No. 29,165  
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 Reg. No. 39,721  
 Reg. No. 34,196  
 Reg. No. 37,160  
 Reg. No. 33,924  
 Reg. No. 21,197  
 Reg. No. 31,535  
 Reg. No. 36,848  
 Reg. No. 44,197  
 Reg. No. 38,946

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Reg. No. 40,443  
 Reg. No. 29,555  
 Reg. No. 40,066  
 Reg. No. 40,701  
 Reg. No. 36,204  
 Reg. No. 35,600  
 Reg. No. 37,674  
 Reg. No. 32,044  
 Reg. No. 40,337  
 Reg. No. 30,300  
 Reg. No. 28,650  
 Reg. No. 40,123  
 Reg. No. 37,206  
 Reg. No. 37,209  
 Reg. No. 41,512  
 Reg. No. 37,703  
 Reg. No. 25,767  
 Reg. No. 32,933  
 Reg. No. 39,828  
 Reg. No. 31,197  
 Reg. No. 30,422  
 Reg. No. 42,137  
 Reg. No. 33,280  
 Reg. No. 40,178  
 Reg. No. P-43,352  
 Reg. No. 29,114  
 Reg. No. 24,216  
 Reg. No. 32,314  
 Reg. No. 38,344  
 Reg. No. 27,403  
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 Reg. No. 20,890  
 Reg. No. 33,044  
 Reg. No. 43,261  
 Reg. No. 41,376  
 Reg. No. 27,054  
 Reg. No. 41,980  
 Reg. No. 42,236  
 Reg. No. 39,536

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Signature of Inventor 204:			Date: February 15, 2002	

# **§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.**

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
  - (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;
- or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
    - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
    - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
  - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
  - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.